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PHANGNGA

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Phangnga occupies an area of 4,170.895 square kilometers. Its major geographical characteristic is forest and mountains bordering other provinces as follows:

To the North *Ranong and Surat Thani*
To the East *Surat Thani and Krabi*
To the South *Phuket and the Andaman Sea*
To the West *The Andaman Sea*

ADMINISTRATION: Phangnga is administratively divided into eight Amphoes (districts) : Muang Phang Nga, Khura Buri, Thap Put, Kapong, Takua Thung, Takua Pa, Thai Muang, and Ko Yao.

TRAVEL MODES:

By Road: From Bangkok, travel via Highway No. 4 passing Prachuap Khirikhan - Chumphon - Ranong - Phangnga , a total distance of 788 kilometers which takes 12 hours.

The Transport Company Limited operates a daily Bangkok-Phangnga bus service. Air-conditioned coaches leave Bangkok at the Southern Bus Terminal (Charan Sanitwongse Road), Tel. 4125050, 4114978-9 while non air-conditioned buses leave Bangkok at the new Southern Bus Terminal (KM. 3 of Pinklao - Nakhon Chaisi Road), Tel. 4345557-8.

By Air: One can travel via Bangkok - Phuket flight and extend the journey by road for another 58 kilometers. Detailed information can be obtained from the Public Relation Section, Thai Airways International Company Limited, Lan Luang Street, Tel. 2800070, 2800080.

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN AMPHOE MUANG PHANGNGA AREA

RUSI SAWAN CAVE AND LUK SUA CAVE: These two caves are located on Khao Chang Road in the vicinity of Muang Phangnga municipal area near Phetch Kasem Highway, slightly opposite to the Provincial Court. One can walk inside from one cave through another. The Rusi Sawan Cave is in front of Luk Sua Cave facing the edge of Phetch Kasem Highway. The municipality utilizes this area as a public park for the people.

PHUNG CHANG CAVE: This cave is located, in Muang Phangnga municipal area, behind the Provincial Hall before entering Phangnga Market area make a turn via a 500 meter asphalt road to Wat Praphat Prajimkhet where one can walk to the cave.

SA NANG MANORA PARK: This, also known as Sa Nang Manora Waterfall, is located in the area of Tambon Nop Pring Amphoe Muang. To access the park one has to use Phangnga - Krabi route (Highway No. 4) for a distance of five kilometers where a turn is made at the Electricity Generating Station via a three kilometer laterite road to the fall area.

The park occupies an area of 180 rai and, in general, it is a pleasant forest having various kinds of plant and wood species. The outstanding characteristic of this park is the fall originating from a stream flowing along the hillside and cascading down to the big reservoir all year round

AO PHANGNGA NATIONAL PARK: This marine park is situated in the vicinities of Amphoe Muang, Takua Thung, and Ko Yao occupying an area of 250,000 rai and it was announced as the national park area on April 29, 1981. To access Ao Phangnga from the township area, one has to use Highway No. 4 heading southward to Tambon Khok Kloi passing the Provincial Hall and when arriving at KM.8 make a left turn for another four kilometer distance via Highway No. 4144 to Ao Phangnga National Park. At the Customs Check Point Pier one can find boating services operated by private enterprises (besides this pier, one can use the Surakul Pier or Kasom Pier in Amphoe Takua Thung). Those who travel as a big group tour should use the boating service at the Customs Pier because suitable vessels are available there. Sightseeing route will commence from the pier passing Khao Machu, Khao Khian, Ko Panyi and stops will be made at Tham Lot, Khao Tapu, Khao Phing Kan.

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN THE AREA OF AO PHANGNGA NATIONAL PARK

KO PANYI: Ko Panyi is a small flat island of about one rai. There are about 120 households and the majority of the population earn their living from fishery, selling souvenirs and food to tourists. There is one public school named Ban Ko Panyi School, and the villagers are mostly Moslem.

KHAO PHING KAN: This small hill is located in the area of Amphoe Takua Thung. The origin of this name is that a rocky hill is broken apart and the smaller piece slid down with the base sunk in the earth while the upper part still abuts on another posing the present leaning hills.

Behind Khao Phing Kan the scenery is very picturesque and when looking afar to the sea "Khao Tapu" is seen amidst the sea. It looks like a nail, e.g., having a big top while the bottom part touching the sea is slim.

THAM LOT: This cave is located in Ao Phangnga area. Stalactites and stalagmites found in the cave are very beautiful.

KHAO MACHU: This rocky hill has a shape similar to a dog. It is located on the way to Ko Panyi.

KHAO HONG: Khao Hong comprises small and big hills situated in a mixed-up manner like the stage partitions of a theatre. Looking around on a boat when sailing in, one will feel like staying in a big hall having two doors. Tourists mostly do not visit Khao Hong because it is located outside the usual sightseeing route. To visit it properly, careful timing must be taken into consideration to match with the proper tide level because its beauty will be decreased by too high a tide while too low a tide requires smaller vessel for boating inside the area.

KO PHANAK: Ko Phanak is a beautiful island having various stalactites and stalagmites caves with small levelled waterfalls inside.

THAM KAEO: This cave is a home of swallows and there are beautiful reflecting rocks inside.

KHAO KHIAN: It is located on the way to Ko Panyi and there are various paintings of animal of different types. The Fine Arts Department has studied and found that the age of those paintings is not less than 3,000 years and it is believed that those paintings were made by seamen, in the ancient days, who stopped over to hide from a heavy storm.

THAM NAK: The name of this cave is given in compliance with the shape of stalagmites which look like a big curled up snake.

KO KHAI: There are two small islands named Ko Khai Nok and Ko Khai Nai having beautiful beaches and rocks. There are also coral reefs around the islands.

HAT PA SAI: This clean white sandy beach is located seven kilometers from the office of Amphoe Ko Yao. It is surrounded with pleasant shady-trees and swimming can be done safely. Looking out from the beach several islands of Krabi Province are seen.

HAT THA KHAO: This rocky beach is located five kilometers from the office of Amphoe Ko Yao. There are colourful rocks and gravels with various designs on the beach. Not so far from the shore, there is a small island called Ko Nok where one can access by walking during the low tide time. On the island there are wild plants and orchids which are lovely to see.

AO TIKUT: This bay has white clean sand and there is a picturesque rocky cape at the northern area of the bay. Pine trees line the shore making a pleasant shady area.

AO KHLONG SON: This clean white sandy beach is pleasant with shady pine trees. There are small rocky cliffs and colourful rocks on the left. Swimming can be done safely here and beautiful coral reefs can be observed. During low tide one can pick up beautiful shells for collection.

LOPARAET: This is a shady beach surrounded with coconut groves. The long beach is covered with white powdery sand. There is a rocky cape located at the north of the bay. Swimming can be done at any time here.

LAEM HAT: This is a very long white powdery beach and looks pleasant with shady coconut groves, chashew nuts, and pine trees. It is conveniently accessible by road and by boat.

AO HIN KONG: This beach is pleasant with shady Khiam forest but it is not good for swimming because of a huge number of ray fingerlings.

LAEM NOK OK: This cape has a beautiful beach with rocky cliffs and colourful rocks and it is the place where one can swim at all times.

AO SAI: This is a white powdery beach with beautiful rocky cliffs and swimming can be done at all times.

AO LAN: This is a beautiful sandy beach where swimming is possible but the northern part of the cape is a steep cliff with deep water under the cliff. Water transportation is more convenient than land transportation to reach there.

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN AMPHOE THAP PUT AREA

TAO THONG WATERFALL: This waterfall is in the vicinity of Tambon Bo Saen. To access the waterfall, the same route to Sa Nang Manora Park has to be used but one has to go further to Mu 3, Tambon Bo Saen where a laterite road of 11 kilometer distance branches off to the fall.

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN AMPHOE TAKUA THUNG AREA

WAT SUWAN KHUHA: This monastery is located at Mu2, Tambon Krasom. To get there one must use the Phangnga - Khok Kloi route (Highway No. 4) for a distance of seven kilometers to arrive at Mu 2 (KM. 31), Amphoe Takua Thung, a one kilometer asphalt road branches off on the right.

This Wat Suwan Khuha is generally called, by the villagers, "Wat Tham" which is an interesting monastery having the most importance in Phangnga due to its being an important historical archaeological site. In the vicinity of the monastery area, there is a mountain having several big and small caves situated in both low and high locations. The important caves are: Tham Yai, Tham Chaeng, Tham Mued, and Tham Kaeo.

Tham Yai is located at the lowest level where one must pass through prior to entering other caves. The size of this cave is larger than any other caves having a width of more than 20 meters, and a length of more than 40 meters. The cave floor is flat while the ceiling has a semi-circle shape like a boat roof. There are decorations with earthenware of various colours, sizes, and designs along the entire cave length. Tham Yai is used as a Vihara enshrining various sizes of stucco Buddha images; the most important one is a very beautiful 15 meter Reclining Buddha.

RAMAN WATERFALL: This fall is situated near Wat Tham Suwan Khuha, i.e., from KM. 31, there is a seven kilometer branch road on the right leading to the fall. Raman Waterfall, medium sized falls, is surrounded by thick jungle providing water all year. There is a large sized rest pavilion but other facilities are not available there.

THA NUN SEASHORE: Branching Highway No. 4 through Highway No. 402 to Phuket one can see sandy beaches on both sides of Pak Phra Channel before arriving at Phuket Island. There are sea turtles laying eggs on these beaches every year during the season.

KHAO PILAI SEASHORE: This locality is situated in the vicinity of Tambon Khok Kloi and it is adjacent to Tha Nun Beach. Even there are some rocky cliffs on the white sandy beach, swimming can be done.

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN AMPHOE THAI MUANG AREA

KHAO LAMPI NATIONAL PARK - THAI MUANG BEACH: This park covers an area of 45,000 rai and was proclaimed as a national park area on April 14, 1986. Places of interest in the vicinity of this national park are:

LAMPI WATERFALL: This fall is situated in Mu 6, Tambon Thai Muang, along the Phetch Kasem Highway (Highway No. 4). Between KM. 32-33, a laterite road of 1.5 kilometers branches off on the left to the fall. Lampi Waterfall, medium sized falls, has three levels each of which is about 100 meters in height. The falls exist all year round and more people like to visit during rainy season.

TON PHRAI WATERFALL: At KM. 28-29, a seven kilometer laterite road branches off on the left but a foot trip is still needed for another kilometer to view the fall. This is a large sized waterfall with cascading water all year round and a trip to see this waterfall should be made during the dry season for travelling convenience.

THAI MUANG SEASHORE: This is located in the vicinity of Thai Muang Sanitary area where a 1.5 kilometer asphalt road branches off on the right to join the beach road for another five kilometer to reach the office of the national park. Thai Muang Beach is a 13 kilometer clean sandy beach parallel to the Highway. The water is clear, good for swimming; from November to February sea turtles will come up to the beach for laying eggs. This started a tradition of walking to observe egg-laying turtles in the bright moon night. After the hatching period there is also a turtle releasing festival called "Turtle Walking Tradition"

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN AMPHOE TAKUA PA AREA

BANG SAK BEACH: This beach is situated in the vicinity of Tambon Bang Muang along the Phetch Kasem Highway at KM. 75-76 where a one kilometer road branches off on the right. Bang Sak Beach has clean white sand and good weather. . The grilled fish here is very famous the same as at Rawai Beach of Phuket Island.

KHAO LAK SEASHORE FOREST PARK: This park is situated 25 kilometers from Takua Pa township at KM. 56-57 before entering Amphoe Thai Muang where there is a hill named "Khao Lak". There is a spirit shrine of Chao Pho Khao Lak located at the foot of the hill. The area opposite to the Hill is Khao Lak Seashore Forest Park having rocky beach characteristics for the entire area.

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN AMPHOE KHURA BURI AREA

MU KO SIMILAN NATIONAL PARK: This park occupies an area of 80,000 rai and was announced as the national park area on September 1, 1982. There are two ways to access the Similan, i.e., taking a boat trip from the pier in Tambon Thap Lamu, Amphoe Takua Pa, through a distance of 40 kilometers which takes about three hours or taking a boat trip from a pier in Amphoe Khura Buri through an approximate distance of 40 kilometers and it also takes about three hours. Similan, a small archipelago in the Andaman Sea comprises nine islands. It is appraised by the Skin-Diving Magazine of USA as one of the top ten islands having both surface and under water beautiful scenery.

A tourist can enjoy scuba diving or angling and it is convenient to start the trip from Phuket where boat-hire service is available for tourists. The best time to make a trip for diving and angling is from late December to mid April. March is regarded as the month with best weather, free from storm, and clear water. Each fish obtained from angling has an average weight of 30-40 kilograms. The best duration of stay at the Similan should be at least 5-7 days excluding travelling time. Tourists can reserve an accommodation at Similan National Park Office, Mu 1, Tambon Lam Kaen, Amphoe Thai Muang.

MU KO SURIN NATIONAL PARK: This park is situated at Mu 5, Tambon Ko Phra Thong, occupying an area of 84, 375 rai. It was announced as a national park area on July 9, 1981. To access Surin National Park, the shortest distance between the park and Phangnga is to use the fish marketing pier of Ban Hin Lat around the mouth of Nang Yon Canal area (the folks there call it Thun Nang Dam Canal). The access road to the fish marketing pier is a one kilometer earth road which branches off from Ranong-

Takua Pa Highway at KM. 110 (from Ranong).

To find this access road, locate Ban Hin Lat School which is located 50 meters towards Amphoe Khura Buri beyond the access road. The entrance of this access road is about five kilometers from the Amphoe Administrative Office. Travelling by boat from Phangnga (township area), it will take about 13 hours. If boating from Kapur of Ranong the time will be seven hours approximately. To travel from the fish marketing pier of Ban Hin Lat it will take only 4-5 hours. There are also accommodations for tourists on the island too and detailed information can be obtained from telephone No. (076) 411545.

The best time to visit Mu Ko Surin National Park is only from December to March.

BAN THUNG TUK ANCIENT TOWN: This remains are located on the back part of Tambon Ko Kho Khao, Mu 3 area, Amphoe Khura Buri between the ends of Muang Thong Canal and Thung Tuk Canal which is the mouth of Takua Pa River area. Characteristics of the area are sand, plain, covered with trees and some spots are brushes. The reason why it is generally called, by the villagers, "Thung Tuk" is that there are at least three archaeological remains. They look similar to a building or sanctuary, on this sand plain in the brush area. Parts and components of a Bhraman religious place and religious symbols, such as stone carved into a pedestrian shape with a pit at the bottom, it looks like a base whereupon a Siva Linga or an idol is places. In addition, pieces of Chinaware, earthenware, coloured glass containers as well as various types and colours of beads, Indian coins are scatteredly found on the ground of this Thung Tuk archaeological remains. The majority of archaeological expert has resolved that Thung Tuk was a location of an ancient port town where Indians, Arabians, and Malayans were so well acquainted due to its being an important spice market situated on the west bank of the Malayan Penninsula. It is located in a suitable locality having appropriate natural circumstances to anchor in safety from big storms. Besides its perfect natural resources, it is situated nearby the deep open sea where big vessels can access conveniently, and yet located on the mouth of Takua Pa River which is also the center of water communication.

BOATING SERVICE:

1. To visit Ao Phangnga National Park, there are boat-hire services from various piers as follows:

- Customs Check Point Pier which is located near Phang Nga Bay Resort Hotel; there are sightseeing boats of various sizes.
- Surakul Pier or Kasom Pier which is located in the area of Amphoe Takua Thung; there are long-shafted propeller (long tailed) boats with the capacity to carry six passengers each.
- Ao Phangnga National Park Office Pier; there are long tailed boats with hauling capacity of eight passengers each.

Time spent for sightseeing in the area of Ao Phangnga National Park is approximately three hours. It can be operated as half day tour program.

2. To visit Mu Ko Similan National Park:

- Piers in Amphoe Khura Buri area are about 60 kilometers from the Similan; it takes about three hours to reach there.
- Phangnga Navy Station Pier at Thap Lamu, Amphoe Thai Muang is about 60 kilometers from the Similan and it also takes three hours approximately.
- Piers at Amphoe Kapur, Ranong is the place where sightseeing vessels are most conveniently available because it is the most popular spot for deep sea angling.

3. To visit Mu Ko Surin National Park:

- Ban Hin Lat Pier at the mouth of Nang Yon Canal (or Thun Nang Dam Canal), Amphoe Khura Buri is about 60 kilometers from Mu Ko Surin; travel time is approximately four hours.

To hire a vessel, one can directly contact each of such pier or he may contact through the Provincial Governer's Office, Tel. (076) 411140 asking for such assistance.

REMARKS: The most appropriate time to go sightseeing in the Andaman Sea is from the beginning of November to mid summer around the end of April. However, prior to starting each trip information on weather status should be obtained from the Weather Forecasting Division, Department of Meteorology (Tel. 2580437-9) in advance for safety.

ACCOMMODATIONS

IN THE VICINITY OF AMPHOE MUANG PHANGNGA (Long Distance Code is 076):

Phang Nga Bay Resort: KM.7, Tha Dan Road, Tel. 411067-70, Fax: 411057,

Telex: 67303 BAYHTL TH, BKK.Resv. Tel. 2591992-4, Fax: 2591995, Telex: 22461 RESOTEL TH, 90 rooms, Rates 847 - 2,420 baht.

Lak Muang 1 Hotel: 1/2 Phetch Kasem Road, Tel. 411125, 411512, 23 rooms, Rates 100 - 250 baht.

Lak Muang 2 Hotel: Phetch Kasem Road, Tel. 411218, 411500, 21 rooms, Rates 230 - 480 baht.

Raks Phang Nga Hotel: 176 Phetch Kasem Road, Tel. 411090, 36 rooms, Rates 100 - 200 baht.

Phang Nga Valley Resort: 5/5 Phetch Kasem Road, Tambon Tham Nam Phut, Muang District, Tel. 411201, 411353, 411393, 15 rooms, Rates 600 baht.

Muang Thong Hotel: 190/7 Phetch Kasem Road, Tel. 411132, 11 rooms, Rates 100 - 200 baht.

Ratanaphong Hotel: 111 Phetch Kasem Road, Tel. 411247.

IN THE VICINITY OF AMPHOE TAKUA PA

Extra Hotel: 30/3 Senarat Road, Tel. 421026, 75 rooms, Rates 120 - 300 baht.

Amarin Hotel: 7/5-8 Montri 2 Road, Tel. 421534, 421083, 52 rooms, Rates 200 - 300 baht.

Tap Tawan Hotel: 40 Mu 7, Tel. 421580.

DINING PLACES

Mala Cafe: 50 Phetch Kasem Road, Tel. 411470.

Mom Thip Food Garden: 254/2 Phetch Kasem Road, Tel. 411197

Tham Rusi Sawan Food Garden: 699/1 Rusi Sawan Road, Tel. 411335

Duang: 122 Phetch Kasem Road, Tel. 411216

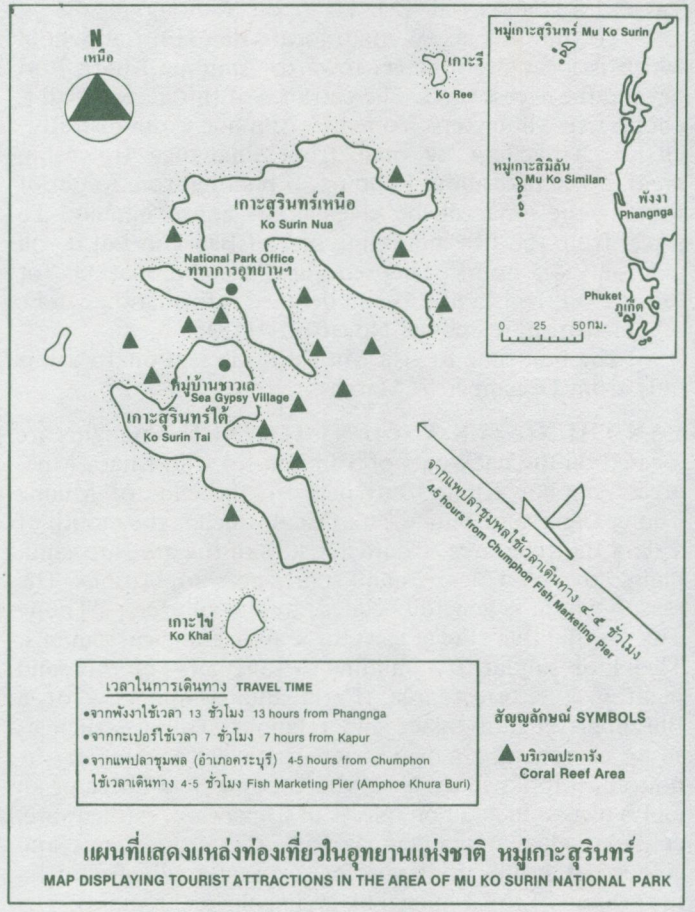
Lak Muang 1: 1/2 Phetch Kasem Road, Tel. 411125.

Phang Nga Bay Resort Coffee House: KM.7, Tha Dan Road, Tel. 411067-70.

Phang Nga Phing Kan: This place is located in the area of Ao Phangnga National Park Office (only dinner is served).

SOUVENIRS

Souvenirs of Phangnga are products made of shells, dried seafood stuffs and the buying places are at Ko Panyi and Khao Phing Kan.



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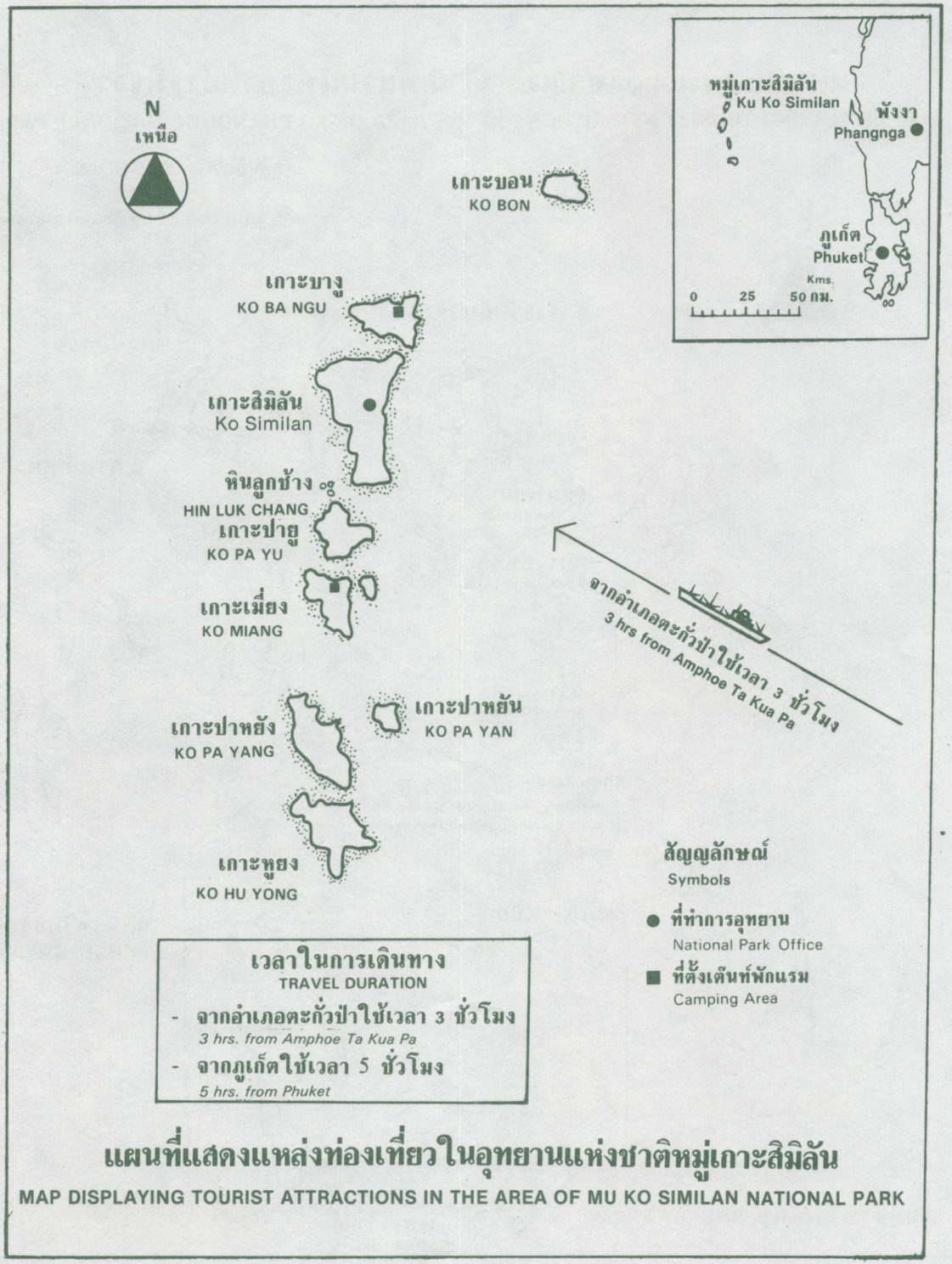
MAP DISPLAYING TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN THE AREA OF MU KO SURIN NATIONAL PARK

This leaflet is for information purpose only.
The contents of the publication are subject to change without notice.

Information Development Section
Tourism Authority of Thailand

January 1990



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MAP DISPLAYING TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN THE AREA OF MU KO SIMILAN NATIONAL PARK

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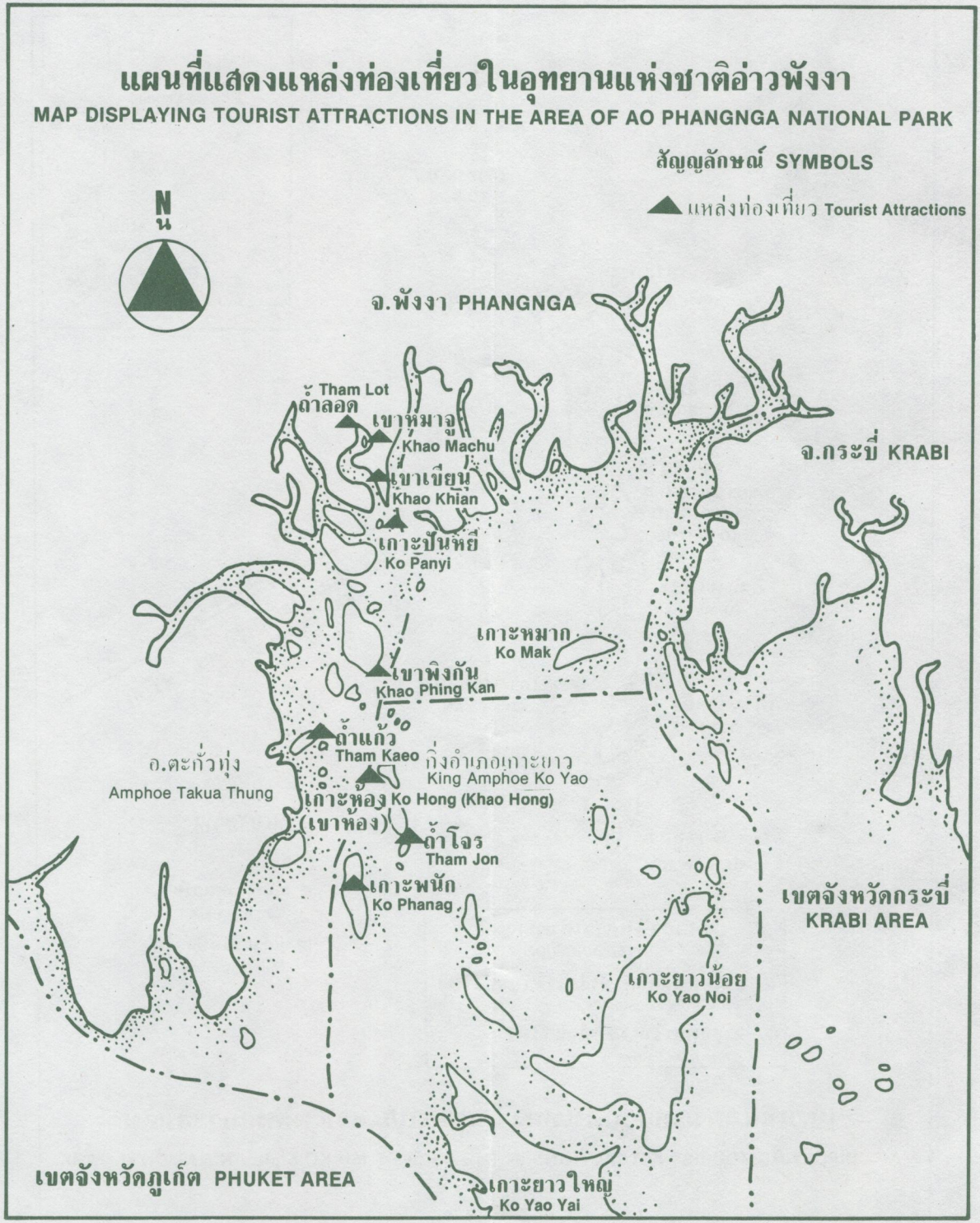
MAP DISPLAYING TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN THE AREA OF AO PHANGNGA NATIONAL PARK